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SWEET  
BRIAR  
COLLEGE

# Sweet Briar

## NEWSLETTER

NO. 4

BULLETIN OF SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

FEBRUARY 1971

### Public Invited to Attend Conservation Talks, Films

An innovation at Sweet Briar is a second-semester course featuring lectures by guest speakers, specialists in various aspects of environmental studies, which are open to the public.

Called "Conservation: Agenda for Tomorrow," the course is conducted by Dr. Elizabeth Sprague, professor of biology. Open lectures and film showings are planned as a public service to the community as well as for the students. The program is supported by funds from a \$203,900 grant (COSIP) from the National Science Foundation received by the college last spring.

Visiting specialists will discuss problems of air and water pollution, pesticides, urbanization, and natural resources. Representing academic, agricultural, industrial, conservationist, political and legal views, they will present the often-conflicting interests in these areas.

About 75 students are enrolled in the new course. In addition to the open lectures, they will attend regular class sessions and will take some field trips.

#### *Conservation: Agenda for Tomorrow*

Films (\*) and lectures by outside speakers are open to the public free of charge. Lectures will be at 4:30 p.m. and films at 7:00 p.m. in 101 Guion Science Building.

#### FEBRUARY

- 1 \**Grand Canyon and An Island in Time*
- 4 *Priorities are the Problem*—Dr. Edward W. Weidner, Chancellor, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
- 8 \**The Gifts and A Time to Begin*
- 10 *We're in Hot Water*—Dr. John Cairns, Director, Center for Environmental Studies, Virginia Polytechnic Institute
- 15 \**Spirit of 76* (oil pollution)
- 18 *Clean Water*—Dr. Bruce C. Parker, V.P.I. limnologist
- 22 *Virginia Water Problems*—Dr. Lucy H. Gibbs, League of Women Voters, Lynchburg
- \**One Beautiful River*
- 25 Student Panel

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### 4-1-4 Plan Adopted

## Calendar and Courses To Change Next Year

A new calendar and curriculum plan, popularly known as 4-1-4, will go into effect at Sweet Briar in September, replacing the semester calendar which has been in use heretofore.

The new plan, adopted by the faculty for a three-year trial period, divides the college year into Fall and Spring terms of 13 weeks each, and a Winter term of four weeks in January. The number of class days for the academic year will remain unchanged.

### Search for President Begun by Committees

Two joint meetings of the two committees named to aid in the selection of the sixth president of Sweet Briar have taken place and the members are beginning to screen the candidates who have been proposed and are evaluating their qualifications.

When President Pannell announced her resignation last September, she asked that it be effective within a year.

Board chairman Robert C. Tyson named Charles N. Prothro, Wichita Falls, Tex., as chairman of the Selection Committee of the Board of Directors, which also includes J. Bruce Bredin, Wilmington, Del., and Prime F. Osborn, Jacksonville. The last two men have daughters now attending Sweet Briar and Mr. Prothro's wife and daughter are alumnae.

An overseer, C. Walier Barrett, Charlottesville, is chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Selection Committee. Alumnae members are Mrs. Edward Dwelle, Jacksonville, president of the Alumnae Association, and Mrs. Edward R. Harris, Jr., Lynchburg, member of the Board of Overseers. Dr. Milan E. Hapala and Dr. Elizabeth Wentworth were elected by the faculty; and Carter Burns, '71, and Virginia Upchurch, '72, were elected by the students.

The committees are still seeking names of possible candidates, together with whatever pertinent information is available, for immediate consideration. These should be sent to Mr. Prothro, Box 2099, Wichita Falls, Texas 76307.

Later, interviews will be conducted and nominations will be submitted to the Board of Directors for final vote.

Adoption of the 4-1-4 plan, which refers to the number of courses normally carried in each of the three terms, resulted from a year-long study by an Ad Hoc Committee of four faculty members and four students. At an all-day workshop last September the college community, including faculty, staff, students, and some alumnae, met to discuss the committee's detailed report and recommendations. Reports from some 200 colleges where the 4-1-4 or a similar plan has been instituted were considered by the Committee.

The Fall term will open with the arrival of new students Sept. 9 and end with the conclusion of final course examinations Dec. 17.

The Winter term, Jan. 5-Feb. 1, will be a period of innovation for both faculty and students. It introduces a block of time for intensive independent study or for other forms of concentrated, experimental learning. Students may choose their own projects for individual study, or may participate in special courses or seminars offered by faculty members.

Spring term will run from Feb. 7 to May 16, including a week for the final examination period, with Commencement on May 21.

With these calendar changes, in particular the Winter term, the curriculum has been altered to advance the education process and program at Sweet Briar in line with academic trends in American higher education today.

Recognizing the increasing desire and capacity of students for self initiated studies and independent learning, the new plan reduces to a minimum specific degree requirements. It allows more students, including freshmen and sophomores, to have in-

(continued on page 3, col. 1)

## Second Semester COLLEGE CALENDAR

### February

- 1 Civilisation film: *Romance and Reality*
- 2-4-5 Beethoven Bicentennial: concerts by Francesco Chamber Trio, Alfred Brendel, pianist, and New Cleveland Quartet
- 7 Gregg Smith Singers, concert
- 8 Civilisation film: *The Measure of All Things*
- 14 Film: *Le Million*, Clair; *Un Chien Andalou*, Bunuel & Dali  
Sweet Briar Choir and Washington & Lee Glee Club, concert at W. & L.
- 15 Civilisation: *The Hero as Artist*
- 17 Honors Convocation
- \*Lecture: Gregory Vlastos
- 21 Film: *The Bad Sleep Well*, Kurosawa
- 23 \*Lecture: Harry F. Harlow
- 28 Sweet Briar Choir and Washington & Lee Glee Club, concert

### March

- 4-7 Symposium: *Rock of Ages: Evolution and Revolution in Contemporary Sounds*
- 7 Film: *Casablanca*, Curtiz; *Cosmic Ray & Vivian*, Conner
- 8 Civilisation film: *Protest and Communication*  
Turnau Opera Players: *The Abduction from the Seraglio*
- 12 \*Lecture: Gyorgy Kepes
- 14 Sweet Briar Choir: Choral Evening at Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg  
Film: *Potemkin*, Eisenstein; *Chess Fever*, Pudovkin
- 15 Civilisation film: *Grandeur and Obedience*
- 19-20 Paint and Patches production
- 21-23 Annual Religious Conference
- 25 Dance Concert
- 26 Spring vacation begins
- 29 Civilisation film: *The Light of Experience*

### April

- 4 Spring vacation ends
- 5 Civilisation film: *The Pursuit of Happiness*
- 11 Film: *Moano*, Flaherty; *Unsere Afrikareise*, Kubalka
- 12 Civilisation: *The Smile of Reason*
- 18 Sweet Briar Choir, concert
- 19 Phi Beta Kappa visiting scholar  
Civilisation: *The Worship of Nature*
- 20 \*Lecture: Urie Bronfenbrenner
- 23 \*Lecture: Carl Schorske
- 24 Amherst County Day
- 29 Civilisation film: *The Fallacies of Hope*
- 29-30 Senior comprehensive exams

### May

- 5 \*Lecture: Will Herberg
- 7-8 Paint and Patches production
- 10 Civilisation film: *Heroic Materialism*
- 11 Organ recital, Antoinette Wikswo, '68
- 14 Second semester classes end
- 18-25 Final examinations
- 29 Baccalaureate; Garden Party
- 30 Sixty-second Commencement

\*Visiting Scholar, University Center in Va

## New Science Equipment Bought with NSF Funds

New scientific equipment to provide sophisticated apparatus for experimentation by advanced students, and additional supplies to facilitate teaching laboratory classes have been purchased with funds from the National Science Foundation (COSIP) grant awarded the college last year.

The McKee-Pedersen Complete Instruments System was a major purchase by the chemistry department for advanced analytical chemistry and other courses. A number of different instruments for specific types of analysis can be assembled from the various components. Also, two Heath electronic kits were acquired to enable advanced chemistry students to obtain practical knowledge of electronics.

Experimental work in physics has been considerably advanced by purchase of a laser and two holograms, now being used in senior laboratory work and independent research projects; a research magnet setup; a low-energy nuclear detection and analysis system; and an electronic calculator.

In psychology, students now have available for animal studies five operant conditioning units which give a high degree of control over both behavior and environment. Also purchased were four memory drums for learning studies, a differential color wheel for perceptual experiments, and a numeric printer for reliable recording of response rates.

New equipment in biology includes electric ink-writing recorders used for long-term recording of physiological changes in animals; a chamber for growing seedlings under controlled experimental conditions; new cases for scientific specimens; and additional binoculars for ornithology students.

Mettler balances bought for the science departments make precise weight measurements more feasible for students in laboratories, which have been re-stocked with standard equipment items in quantities to accommodate larger classes.

Funds from the NSF grant are also used for visiting lecturers, and for faculty research and scholarly activities in both the natural and social sciences.

● Dr. David A. Johnson, assistant professor of psychology, has won a research extension grant of \$2000 from the National Science Foundation, to continue a research project he began with NSF support last summer at the University of Michigan. It involved studies of changes in eye-pupils of 24 subjects during short-term memory tests.

## Two New Members Elected as Overseers

Two new members, Emil J. Pattberg, New York, and James F. Olmsted, Washington, have been elected to the Board of Overseers for six-year terms.



Mr. Pattberg, whose term began last November, is board chairman of The First Boston Corp., with which he has been associated since 1929. Named vice president in 1945 and

director in 1951, he has served as chairman of the executive committee and became president in 1962. He was elected to his present post a year later.

Mr. Pattberg is a director or member of several financial and other organizations, including the Association for the Aid of Crippled Children, of New York, of which he is finance committee chairman.

During World War II he served with the 28th Infantry Division in Europe.

He first became associated with Sweet Briar when his daughter Linda, a 1968 graduate, entered college.

Mr. Olmsted has been vice president of Intermediate Credit Corp., the venture capital subsidiary of the International Bank, since 1964. He was previously employed in the corporate finance department of Texas Instruments, Inc., in Dallas.



A graduate of the State University of Iowa, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he holds an M.B.A. degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. Between college and graduate school he served two years as a U. S. Air Force officer.

Mrs. Olmsted, the former Jane Ramsay, is a 1952 graduate of Sweet Briar. Now president of the Washington Sweet Briar Club, she was vice president and program chairman last year. She is also an Alumna Representative on Admission.

● "Civilisation," the widely-acclaimed film series by British art historian Sir Kenneth Clark, is being shown to the college community and the general public in 13 sequences. (See *College Calendar*). The films are made available on free loan from the National Gallery of Art, through grants from the National Foundation for the Humanities and the Xerox Corporation.

## President Pannell Invited to Visit France

As one of six prominent American women selected for this honor, President Pannell has been invited to spend two weeks in France this spring as a guest of the French government.

The women will have luncheon with Ambassador Charles Lucet at his residence in Washington on Apr. 22 and will fly to Paris later that day. The return date is May 3.

In his letter inviting Mrs. Pannell to join this group, Ambassador Lucet outlined plans for visits to places "which we believe would be of particular interest to you as representative American women: urban developments, industrial areas, universities, hospitals, banking and home economic associations," and a number of historic sites in France. The visitors will also meet representatives of leading women's organizations.

A previous special distinction was accorded to Mrs. Pannell by the French government several years ago, when Ambassador Lucet bestowed on her the rank of *Commandeur de l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques*, in appreciation for her efforts in support of Franco-American cultural relations and recognition for "the academic work which you have pursued at the head of Sweet Briar College."

## Curriculum Changes Made

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dividualized programs and provides for more interdisciplinary studies. With greater freedom of choice, students will become involved more responsibly in their education.

In the Fall and Spring terms, the normal program has been reduced from five to four courses, although individual students may take three or five courses. In the one-course Winter term, they may explore any areas of learning that have aroused their curiosity.

During January, students will also have the option of going to another college or university or other location where they may find research materials and opportunities for engaging in individual projects; or they may go abroad on an approved study tour.

For the majority of students who remain on campus there will be the choice of independent work in conference with their instructors, or enrollment in any of the one-month courses to be offered.

At Sweet Briar the Winter term will carry credit; satisfactory completion of four Winter term courses or special projects are required for the degree.

## Foundation Provides Bus for 'Challenge'

A new dimension, mobility, has been added to the students' "Challenge" program with the acquisition of an eight-passenger Ford club wagon, made possible through a grant to the college from the Public Welfare Foundation, Inc., of Washington, D. C.

Funds for the vehicle were provided to aid the student volunteer program for welfare services to Amherst County residents, conducted with the supervision and assistance of the county Welfare Department.

Challenge, with about 40 active members, was initiated by students two years ago. They work as case aides and tutors, assist families with problems of food, clothing, housing and home management, and provide recreation and learning experiences for the children. Paul H. Cronin, lecturer in sociology, is faculty adviser to Challenge.

The new bus is used by volunteers to take individuals or families to health clinics, to bring children to the campus for tutoring or recreation, or to take them on sightseeing excursions elsewhere. They also use the bus to visit clients' homes and schools. The college is providing gas and maintenance of the vehicle at present.

Last March the Amherst County Welfare Board evaluated the Challenge program and voted unanimously to continue to give it full support. The student program was deemed a valuable one for the agency and the community, allowing the Welfare Department to strengthen its services to clients.

In a letter to Mr. Cronin, the director of the Public Welfare Foundation said: "It is our hope that the program will be copied at colleges in other rural communities where social services are minimal."

## Two Named to Head Junior Year in France

Archille H. Biron, associate professor of modern foreign languages at Colby College, Waterville, Me., has been appointed Professor-in-charge of the 1971-72 Sweet Briar Junior Year in France. He held the same post in 1964-65.

Mme. Edmonde Bissiere, currently serving for the second year as assistant-professor-in-charge, will continue for another year.

Prof. Biron, who held a Ford Foundation Summer Travel Grant in France,



Spain and Portugal last summer, has previously studied in France and holds a diploma from the Institut Phonétique in Paris. A graduate of Clark University, with a master's degree from Middle-

bury College, he has also studied at New York University. He taught at Rutgers University for four years before going to Colby in 1950, and he has been assistant director of the Colby College summer language school for several years. During World War II, Prof. Biron was an interpreter and translator in the U. S. Army for three years, chiefly in France and Belgium.

Mme. Bissiere is a graduate of the University of Bordeaux, France. She has taught English at several lycees in France and taught French at Wheaton College, Mass.

Sweet Briar has administered this pioneer coeducational French study program since 1948. This year 102 men and women from 51 American colleges and universities are enrolled in the program, which is directed by Dr. R. John Matthew.



## First Men Students Enroll this Semester

Two juniors from Hampden-Sydney College, the first men to enroll at Sweet Briar, are among 18 new and returning students this semester.

Bruce B. Hopkins, Wheeling, W. Va., and Charles Y. Caldwell III, Memphis, applied at Sweet Briar under the Eight-College Exchange which permits students to spend a semester or a year at any of the men's or women's colleges in the Exchange.

Two Sweet Briar students also participated in this program. Mary Louise Einhaus, '72, is at Davidson all year, and Martha Stewart, '71, spent the first semester there.

Other students who returned to the senior class are Shannon Salmon, from the Washington Semester Program at American University; Kenney Thornton, from the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies, Rome; Elizabeth Glassman and Beverly Van Zandt, from the University of Texas; and Emily Pitts from the University of Illinois.

Eight juniors, back from Florence, where they were enrolled in the Syracuse University Semester in Italy, are: Cutler Bellows, Constance Brewer, Ann Brown, Elaine Cale, Jean Mann, Allyson Priest, Patricia Reardon, Charlene Sturbitts, and Susan Waller.

Two other juniors, Iris Croft and Deirdre Boyle, returned from the Washington Semester Program and from Marymount College (Calif.) respectively.

● Sweet Briar's President Anne Pannell is included among "100 Women in Touch With Our Time," appearing in the January issue of *Harper's Bazaar*.

## Conservation Course

(continued from page 1, col. 1)

### MARCH

- 1 \**Good Riddance and Crisis on the Kanawha*
- 4 *Food and Drugs from the Sea*—Dr. Ross F. Nigrelli, Director, Osborn Laboratories of Marine Science, New York Aquarium
- 8 *Controlling Air Pollution and Legislation*—Mrs. J. W. Thomasson, League of Women Voters, Lynchburg
- \**Estuarine Heritage and Who Owns the Bottom of the Ocean?*
- 11 *Whatever Happened to Fresh Air?*—Dr. Michael Treshow, Professor of Biology, University of Utah
- 15 *Economic and Environmental Impact of Pesticides*—Dr. Robert White-Stevens, Bureau of Conservation and Environmental Science, Rutgers University, New Jersey
- \**Air Pollution—Everyone's Problem and First Mile Up*
- 18 *Energy and the Environment*—Robert R. Jameson, Asst. Advisor on Environmental Quality, Federal Power Commission, Washington
- 22 \**Poisons, Pests and People*
- 25 *Industrial Control*—James H. Sale, Glamorgan Pipe and Foundry; Bryon M. Dillard, Owens-Illinois, Inc.; O. H. Jones, Babcock & Wilcox Co.; E. R. Templeton, Central Virginia Industries, Inc.

### APRIL

- 5 *Satellite Surveillance*—Gen. Harris B. Hull, NASA, Office of Public Affairs, Washington
- \**Rival World and The River Must Live*
- 8 *Solid Waste Disposal*—Dr. Joseph J. Harrington, Assoc. Professor of Environmental Health Engineering, Harvard University
- 12 \**All the Difference and Trek to the Tetons*
- 15 *A Case Study of Ecosystem Management, or Why Bother to Save the Everglades*—Dr. William E. Odum, Institute of Animal Resource Ecology, Univ. of Virginia
- 19 \**Our Endangered Wildlife*

## Campus Notes

● The Turnau Opera Players will present Mozart's opera, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, in English, Mar. 8. This performance is made possible by a grant from the Procter & Gamble Fund.

● A wide variety of drawings and prints, produced in different media by 15 students in studio classes at Sweet Briar, were selected for the College Collective Exhibit at the Lynchburg Fine Arts Center, Jan. 17-Feb. 16.

● Thomas L. King, instructor in English and director of theatre productions, has received his Ph.D. degree at Indiana University, where he also obtained bachelor's and master's degrees. His dissertation is a study of "The Promethean Conflict," a trilogy of plays by Kazantzakis, modern Greek epic poet, novelist and playwright.

- 21 *Population*—Dr. Roger Revelle, Director, Center for Population Studies, Harvard University  
7:30 p.m. Babcock Auditorium
- 26 *Local Pressure is Effective*—Mrs. John Izard, Georgia Conservancy; Miss Mary Phillips '72, Hilton Head Island, S. C.
- \**Multiply and Subdue the Earth*
- 29 *Design with Nature*—Dr. Ian L. McHarg, Chm., Dept. of Landscape Architecture & Regional Planning, Univ. of Pennsylvania

### MAY

- 3 \**Cosmopolis, Big City*
- 6 *Law & Conservation*—A. E. D. Howard and D. Barnes, Professors of Law, University of Virginia
- 10 \**Alone in the Midst of the Land*
- 13 *What Can You Do?*

\*Films

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**Sweet Briar**  
NEW S L E T T E R

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